

**ABSTRACT**

A mattress package with a full perimeter protection and handling piece combines a barrier layer which encapsulates a mattress with a perimeter piece attached about a perimeter of the mattress proximate to the border of the mattress and preferably extending over the adjacent major surfaces of the mattress over the barrier layer. The perimeter piece provides increased strength and protection to the package about the entire perimeter of the mattress, and provides a grip for handling of the mattress which evenly distributes stresses on the package to prevent breach or failure of the package. The perimeter piece can be positioned underneath or on top of a barrier layer.

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